

## Message Text

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PAGE 01     DACCA 04670 090530Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 IO-13 EB-07 AID-05 /053 W

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R 080935Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1996

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USUN NEW YORK 1053

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4670

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGEN, BG

SUBJECT: NEW MOVES ON FARAKKA ISSUE

REF: A) NEW DELHI 11632; B) DACCA 4414

1. REAR ADMIRAL KHAN, CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF AND DEPUTY CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR, LEFT RATHER HASTILY FOR DELHI TUESDAY TO LEAD A SEVEN-MEMBER BD DELEGATION ON NEW TALKS WITH INDIA CONCERNING THE FARAKKA ISSUE. KHAN'S TRIP HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED ONLY THE PRECEEDING DAY IN A TERSE TWO-PARAGRAPH PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, KHAN'S DEPARTURE WAS IN RESPONSE TO THE RENEWAL OF AN INDIAN GOVERNMENT INVITATION FOR RESUMPTION OF TALKS "WITHOUT ANY PRECONDITIONS AND AS SOON AS CONVENIENT TO BANGLADESH."

2. THIS DEVELOPMENT CAME AS THE BDG WAS PREPARING TO ISSUE A WHITE PAPER ON FARAKKA AND TO DEPLOY SENIOR OFFICIALS TO FOREIGN CAPITALS IN SEARCH OF SUPPORT FOR THEIR RAISING FARAKKA AT THE FORTHCOMING UNGA. ADMIRAL KHAN HAS BEEN SLATED TO LEAVE FOR MOSCOW, POLAND AND EAST GERMANY, AND THEN TO HEAD THE BDG MISSION TO NEW YORK. THE LATE AIR VICE MARSHAL BASHAR WAS SCHEDULED TO MAKE SIMILAR REPRESENTATIONS IN ENGLAND, FRANCE, WEST GERMANY AND

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PAGE 02     DACCA 04670 090530Z

FINLAND. WE HAD HEARD THAT THE BDG WAS FAIRLY CONFIDENT THAT

IT WOULD RECEIVE THE REQUIRED SIMPLE MAJORITY ON THE AGENDA COMMITTEE, THE FIRST HURDLE WHICH ALL PROPOSED ITEMS MUST CLEAR. APPARENTLY, AN UNNAMED COUNTRY HAD AGREED TO SERVE WITH BD AS CO-SPONSOR OF THE ITEM. OF THE TWELVE VOTES NECESSARY FOR A SIMPLE MAJORITY ON THE AGENDA COMMITTEE, THE BDG BELIEVED IT COULD COUNT ON SEVEN VOTES.

3. COMMENT: CONSIDERING ADMIRAL KHAN'S ORIGINAL TRAVEL PLANS, AND THE FACT THAT LESS THAN TWO WEEKS AGO HE TOLD US HE DOUBTED ANYTHING WOULD HAPPEN TO OVERTAKE THEIR MOVE AT THE UN, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE INDIAN INVITATION CAUGHT THE BDG BY SURPRISE. THEY HAD EARLIER REFUSED DELHI'S INVITATION AT THE END OF JULY FOR FURTHER HIGH LEVEL TALKS (REFTEL A). BUT NOW THAT INDIA HAS ADDED THE ENTICING PROVISIO, "WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS", THE BDG, AFTER EXTENSIVELY PUBLICIZING THE ISSUE AGAIN AT COLOMBO AND IN THE PRESS HERE, COULD HARDLY HAVE REFUSED THE OFFER TO EXPLORE THIS ISSUE AGAIN BILATERALLY BEFORE PUSHING FURTHER TO INTERNATIONALIZE IT.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WATER RIGHTS, WATER DIVERSION, NEGOTIATIONS, FARAKKA BARRAGE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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